

REMARKS

Claims 15-18 and 27-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 28 is amended. The amendment introduces no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In reply to the September 28, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 15-18 and 27-37, with traverse.

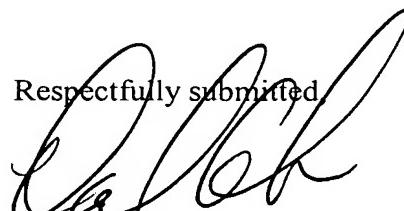
It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 15-18 and 27-38 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-18 and 27-38 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted



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Date: October 24, 2006

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